

# Department of Environmental Quality

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

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## Phillips 66 pays State \$2 million in Petroleum Fund Claims

SALT LAKE CITY — The State of Utah has received \$2 million as part of a settlement agreement with Phillips 66 to resolve a lawsuit filed by the State alleging that the oil company unlawfully received a number of payments from the Utah's Petroleum Storage Tank (PST) Fund, managed by the Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR).

The settlement marks the second agreement reached between the State and oil companies that received disbursements from the PST Fund—a pool of money used to cover the cost of cleaning up petroleum released from underground storage tanks at stations that participate in the fund. The State asserted in the lawsuit that predecessors of Phillips 66 had insurance to cover the cleanups, which they failed to declare.

"We are satisfied with how this has been resolved with Phillips 66," said Brent Everett, director of DERR.

The Utah Attorney General's Office on behalf of DERR, filed claims in Third District Court against ConocoPhillips in 2012, as well as BP Amoco, for similar allegations. The State of Utah reached a settlement agreement with Chevron last year, recouping \$1.8 million from the oil company.

The PST Fund was created by the Utah Legislature in 1989 to help gas station owners and operators meet the federal financial assurance requirements for underground storage tanks. The State is now seeking reimbursement of PST Fund for monies that it asserts the oil companies were ineligible to receive.

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#### **About DEO**

Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) mission is to safeguard public health and quality of life by protecting and enhancing the environment. DEQ implements state and federal environmental laws and works with individuals, community groups and businesses to protect the quality of Utah's air, land and water. For more information, visit www.deq.utah.gov, follow DEQ on Facebook (newseq) and Twitter (@UTDEQ), or call 1-800-458-0145.